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Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia

Labour participation potential, underemployment and job attachment, job search experience, labour mobility, hours worked, industry and occupation.

Reference period February 2022

Released 24/05/2022

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Key statistics

During the year ending February 2022:

- 1.8 million people were not working but wanted to work (potential workers).
- 1.3 million people (or 9.5% of employed people) changed jobs, the highest annual job mobility rate since 2012.
- The annual retrenchment rate was 1.5%, the lowest annual rate on record (since 1972).

What's new this issue?

New table formats

The results from the February 2022 Participation, Job Search and Mobility survey are published below using new table formats. These new table formats incorporate two changes:

- State and territory data now available in all tables
- Tables are renumbered by topic

Some tables also incorporate additional age group data.

Release schedule for February 2022 release

There are a number of planned changes to the February 2022 release of Participation, Job Search and Mobility (PJSB).

The release of PJSB data into TableBuilder has been delayed until later in the year in order to prepare for the release of 2021 Census data in TableBuilder. PJSB microdata will instead be published in ABS DataLab as a supplementary file for the [Longitudinal Labour Force microdata \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/longitudinal-labour-force-australia\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/longitudinal-labour-force-australia).

On 24 May 2022:

- [Potential workers \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/potential-workers/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/potential-workers/latest-release) for February 2022 is available now.
- [Job mobility \(/statistics/labour/jobs/job-mobility/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/jobs/job-mobility/latest-release) for February 2022 is available now.
- This page has tables with February 2022 data for all three PJSB topics in [Data downloads \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/participation-job-search-and-mobility-australia/feb-2022#data-download\)](/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/participation-job-search-and-mobility-australia/feb-2022#data-download), including Underemployed workers.

On 27 May 2022:

- [Microdata from PJSB \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/participation-job-search-and-mobility-australia\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/participation-job-search-and-mobility-australia) for 2015 to 2022 will be released in ABS DataLab as a supplementary file alongside the April 2022 update to the [Longitudinal Labour Force microdata \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/longitudinal-labour-force-australia\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/longitudinal-labour-force-australia). This will provide an alternative method of analysing PJSB data while TableBuilder is delayed.

On 24 Jun 2022:


- [Underemployed workers \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment\)](/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment)

</underemployed-workers/latest-release>) is predominately based on underemployment data from the Labour Force survey and will be updated with the latest data from the May 2022 Labour Force survey. It will also be supplemented with February 2022 PJSM data on underemployed part-time workers (available now on this page in [Data downloads \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/participation-job-search-and-mobility-australia/feb-2022#data-download\)](/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/participation-job-search-and-mobility-australia/feb-2022#data-download)).

Data downloads

How to use tables

1. Select a state or territory
2. The estimates shown in the table are for the most recent time period (February 2022)
3. The corresponding Time Series ID links to series of annual estimates for earlier time periods (2015 to 2021)

 Time Series Workbook 6228.0 Potential workers Table 1. Potential workers and discouraged job seekers Released at 11:30 am (Canberra time) Fri 29 Apr 2022 Table 1.2 - Potential workers and discouraged job seekers by state and territory, February 2021						
Select a state or territory:				Time Series IDs		
Australian Capital Territory				Persons	Males	Females
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Expanded labour force status						
Civilian population	342.8	165.7	177.1	A125173330B	A125184562F	A125178946C
Employed	235.6	118.8	116.9	A125173294T	A125184526W	A125178910A
Underemployed (expanded definition)	21.0	11.7	9.3	A125173334X	A125184566B	A125178950V
Underemployed (headline definition)	12.5	6.7	5.8	A125173338J	A125184570F	A125178954C
Potential workers	30.3	11.8	18.5	A125173298A	A125184530L	A125178914K
Potential workers with job attachment (away from work or waiting to start)	5.4	2.7	2.7	A125173302F	A125184534W	A125178918V
Had a job to go to and available within 4 weeks	4.6	2.7	2.0	A125173322B	A125184554F	A125178938C
Had a job to go to and available last week (a sub-group of unemployed)	2.7	1.8	0.9	A125173282J	A125184514L	A125178898W
Had a job to go to and available within 4 weeks (but not last week)	1.9	0.9	1.1	A125173342X	A125184574B	A125178958L
Had a job to go to and not available within 4 weeks	0.8	0.0	0.8	A125173326X	A125184558B	A125178942V
Potential workers without job attachment	25.0	9.2	15.8	A125173354J	A125184586X	A125178970C
Wanted to work, actively looking and available within 4 weeks	7.9	3.5	4.5	A125173286T	A125184514L	A125178902A
Wanted to work, actively looking and available last week (a sub-group of unemployed)	7.5	3.2	4.3	A125173262X	A125184514L	A125178878L
Wanted to work, actively looking and available within 4 weeks (but not last week)	0.4	0.3	0.2	A125173274J	A125184514L	A125178890C
Wanted to work, actively looking and not available within 4 weeks	0.0	0.0	0.0	A125173306B	A125184538F	A125178922K
Wanted to work, available within 4 weeks but not actively looking	14.7	5.2	9.5	A125173278T	A125184510C	A125178894L
Discouraged job seekers - available within 4 weeks but discouraged from actively looking	1.0	0.0	1.0	A125173310F	A125184542W	A125178926V
Other job seekers - available within 4 weeks but not actively looking for other reasons	13.0	4.6	8.4	A125173314B	A125184546F	A125178930K
Wanted to work, not available within 4 weeks and not actively looking	2.4	0.5	1.9	A125173358T	A125184590B	A125178974L
Not potential workers	76.8	35.1	41.7	A125173266J	A125184498X	A125178882C
Did not want to work	68.9	32.7	36.3	A125173346J	A125184578X	A125178962C
Permanently unable to work	7.9	2.5	5.4	A125173350X	A125184582B	A125178966L

Potential workers

↓ Download all (14.43 MB)

Table 1. Potential workers and discouraged job seekers (previously Table 1)

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[755.18 KB]

Table 2. Characteristics of discouraged job seekers and other potential workers (previously Table 8)

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[2.98 MB]

Table 3. Duration since last job and main activity of discouraged job seekers and other potential workers (previously Table 9)

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[3.43 MB]

Table 4. Main reason for not actively looking for work of persons who wanted to work and were available (previously Table 11)

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[470.31 KB]

Table 5. Job search experience of unemployed persons (previously Table 12)

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[1.36 MB]

Table 6. Characteristics of successful and unsuccessful job search experience (previously Table 13)

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[1.09 MB]

Table 7. Number of job offers while looking for work (previously Table 14)

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[2.43 MB]

Table 8. Main difficulty and duration of job search of unemployed persons (previously Table 15)

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[3.06 MB]

Table 9. Main difficulty in finding work by age of unemployed persons (previously Table 16)

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[2.1 MB]

Relative standard errors, Tables 1 to 9

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[10.45 MB]

Job mobility

Table 1. Labour mobility, retrenchments and duration of employment (previously Table 17)

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[849.86 KB]

Table 2. Retrenchments and other reasons for ceasing a job last year (previously Table 10)

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[4.52 MB]

Table 3. Change in employment characteristics of persons employed last year (previously Table 18)

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[1.3 MB]

Table 4. Separations and other changes in employment of people employed last year by industry (previously Table 19)

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[2.4 MB]

Table 5. Engagements and other changes in employment of people employed last year by industry

⬇ [Download XLSX](#)

[2.37 MB]

Table 6. Separations and other changes in employment of people employed last year by occupation (previously Table 20)

⬇ [Download XLSX](#)

[1.59 MB]

Table 7. Engagements and other changes in employment of people employed last year by occupation (new table)

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[1.55 MB]

Relative standard errors, Tables 1 to 7

⬇ [Download ZIP](#)

[8.33 MB]

Underemployed workers

⬇ Download all (6.84 MB)

Table 1. Cyclical and structural underemployment of full-time and part-time workers (new table)

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[1.38 MB]

Table 2. Extended measures of underutilisation (previously Table 22)

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[208.25 KB]

Table 3. Underemployment status of full-time and part-time workers (previously Table 2)

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[208.91 KB]

Table 4. Part-time workers who prefer more hours (previously Table 3)

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[272.12 KB]

Table 5. Characteristics of part-time workers who prefer more hours (previously Table 4)

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[962.34 KB]

Table 6. Duration of insufficient hours of underemployed part-time workers (previously Table 5)

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[2.75 MB]

Table 7. Number of extra weekly hours preferred by underemployed part-time workers (previously Table 6)

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[1.88 MB]

Table 8. Main difficulty in finding more work of underemployed part-time workers (previously Table 7)

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[580.31 KB]

Relative standard errors, Tables 2 to 8

↓ [Download ZIP](#)

[3.84 MB]

Microdata and TableBuilder: Participation,
Job Search and Mobility

↓ [Download all \(1.3 MB\)](#)

Table 1. Populations

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[944.83 KB]

Relative Standard Errors, Table 1

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[370.06 KB]

Microdata: Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Data item list, 2015 to 2022

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[668.98 KB]

Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6226.0* (and 6226.0.55.001 in 2014).

Prior to 2014, statistics were published in:

- [Labour Mobility \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6209.0&viewtitle=Labour%20Mobility,%20Australia~February%202013~Latest~21/08/2013&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6209.0&issue=February%202013&num=&view=&\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6209.0&viewtitle=Labour%20Mobility,%20Australia~February%202013~Latest~21/08/2013&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6209.0&issue=February%202013&num=&view=&) (6209.0), 1972-2013.
- [Persons Not in the Labour Force \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6220.0&viewtitle=Persons%20Not%20in%20the%20Labour%20Force,%20Australia~September%202013~Latest~26/03/2014&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6220.0&issue=September%202013&num=&view=&\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6220.0&viewtitle=Persons%20Not%20in%20the%20Labour%20Force,%20Australia~September%202013~Latest~26/03/2014&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6220.0&issue=September%202013&num=&view=&) (6220.0), 1975-2013.
- [Job Search Experience \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6222.0&viewtitle=Job%20Search%20Experience,%20Australia~July%202013~Latest~05/02/2014&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6222.0&issue=July%202013&num=&view=&\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6222.0&viewtitle=Job%20Search%20Experience,%20Australia~July%202013~Latest~05/02/2014&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6222.0&issue=July%202013&num=&view=&) (6222.0), 1976-2013.
- [Underemployed workers \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6265.0&viewtitle=Underemployed%20Workers,%20Australia~September%202013~Latest~26/02/2014&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6265.0&issue=September%202013&num=&view=&\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6265.0&viewtitle=Underemployed%20Workers,%20Australia~September%202013~Latest~26/02/2014&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6265.0&issue=September%202013&num=&view=&) (6265.0), 1985-2013.
- [Labour Force Experience \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6206.0&viewtitle=Labour%20Force%20Experience,%20Australia~Feb%202011~Latest~31/08/2011&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6206.0&issue=Feb%202011&num=&view=&\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6206.0&viewtitle=Labour%20Force%20Experience,%20Australia~Feb%202011~Latest~31/08/2011&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6206.0&issue=Feb%202011&num=&view=&) (6206.0), 1968-2011.
- [Career Experience \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6254.0&viewtitle=Career%20Experience,%20Australia~Nov%202002~Latest~22/09/2003&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6254.0&issue=Nov%202002&num=&view=&\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6254.0&viewtitle=Career%20Experience,%20Australia~Nov%202002~Latest~22/09/2003&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6254.0&issue=Nov%202002&num=&view=&) (6254.0), 1993-2002.

- [Retrenchment and Redundancy \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6266.0&viewtitle=Retrenchment%20and%20Redundancy,%20Australia~Jul%202001~Latest~02/08/2002&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6266.0&issue=Jul%202001&num=&view=&\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6266.0&viewtitle=Retrenchment%20and%20Redundancy,%20Australia~Jul%202001~Latest~02/08/2002&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6266.0&issue=Jul%202001&num=&view=&) (6266.0), 1997-2001.
- [Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6245.0&viewtitle=Successful%20and%20Unsuccessful%20Job%20Search%20Experience,%20Australia~Jul%202000~Latest~06/06/2001&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6245.0&issue=Jul%202000&num=&view=&\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6245.0&viewtitle=Successful%20and%20Unsuccessful%20Job%20Search%20Experience,%20Australia~Jul%202000~Latest~06/06/2001&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6245.0&issue=Jul%202000&num=&view=&) (6245.0), 1982-2000.
- [Persons Who Had Re-entered The Labour Force \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6264.0&viewtitle=Persons%20Who%20Had%20Re-entered%20The%20Labour%20Force,%20Australia~Jul%201995~Latest~01/02/1996&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6264.0&issue=Jul%201995&num=&view=&\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6264.0&viewtitle=Persons%20Who%20Had%20Re-entered%20The%20Labour%20Force,%20Australia~Jul%201995~Latest~01/02/1996&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6264.0&issue=Jul%201995&num=&view=&) (6264.0), 1985-1995.
- [Persons Who Have Left The Labour Force \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6267.0&viewtitle=Persons%20Who%20Have%20Left%20The%20Labour%20Force,%20Australia~Sep%201994~Latest~02/04/1995&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6267.0&issue=Sep%201994&num=&view=&\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6267.0&viewtitle=Persons%20Who%20Have%20Left%20The%20Labour%20Force,%20Australia~Sep%201994~Latest~02/04/1995&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6267.0&issue=Sep%201994&num=&view=&) (6267.0), 1985-1994.
- [Labour Turnover \(https://archive.org/details/australian-statistics?and%5B%5D=subject%3A%22Labour+Turnover%22&sort=-date\)](https://archive.org/details/australian-statistics?and%5B%5D=subject%3A%22Labour+Turnover%22&sort=-date) (6210.0), 1949-1976.

* Note: Catalogue number 6226.0 was previously used for [School Leavers, 1970 to 1974: their Employment Status and Education Experience \(https://archive.org/details/62260-1975-05\)](https://archive.org/details/62260-1975-05), May 1975.

Methodology

[Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia methodology, February 2022](#)